

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 2-26 and 30-32 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1 and 27-29 are canceled by this amendment.

I. Foreign Priority

On the Office Action Summary, the Examiner acknowledges Applicants claim for foreign priority, but indicates that the certified copies of the priority documents have not been received. Applicants note that this application is a National Stage Application filed under 35 U.S.C. 371.

Applicants have previously submitted the Notification Concerning Submission or Transmittal of Priority Document (Form PCT/IB/304) which indicates that the priority documents were submitted to the International Bureau in compliance with PCT Rule 17.1(a) or (b), and that the certified copies of the priority documents (JP 2000-230095 and JP 2000-230624) were received by the International Bureau on September 18, 2001.

Therefore, as the priority documents have been properly submitted to the International Bureau, in accordance with PCT Rule 17.2(a), the International Bureau is responsible for forwarding the certified copy of the priority documents to the USPTO. In view of the foregoing, Applicants kindly request that the Examiner acknowledge in the next Office paper that the certified copies of the priority documents were received by the USPTO from the International Bureau.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2, 24-26 and 31 are allowed.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4-6, 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants note that claims 4-6, 10 and 11 have been amended so as to depend from allowed claim 2, and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 7-9, 12-23, 27-30 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikeda et al. (U.S. 5,815,136).

Initially, Applicants note that Ikeda et al. (U.S. 5,815,136) was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 19, 2002. The Examiner, however, inadvertently did not initial next to this reference on the PTO-1449 form. Accordingly, in order to ensure that this reference is printed on the front page of the patent, Applicants kindly request the Examiner to either initial next to this reference on the PTO-1449 form and return the form to Applicants with the next Office paper, or to cite the reference on a PTO-892 form with the next Office paper.

As noted above, claims 1 and 27-29 are canceled by this amendment. Regarding claims 3, 7-9, 12 and 21-23, Applicants note that these claims have been amended so as to depend from allowed claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 3, 7-9, 12 and 21-23 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Regarding claims 13, 15, 30 and 32, Applicants note that these claims have been amended to include features recited in allowable claims 2, 24-26 and 31.

In particular, regarding claims 13 and 15, Applicants note that each of these claims has been amended to recite that the second communicating section transfers data packets having a

control field including identification information, which is an ID to denote the horizontal driving sections to be transferred the various control data, control identification information to denote a type of the control data, and an information field including the control data to the horizontal driving sections; and the horizontal driving communicating section receives the control data for the horizontal driving section, when the ID of identification information of the transferred data packet agrees with ID stored in itself.

Regarding claims 30 and 32, Applicants note that each of these claims has been amended to recite that the data packet has a control field including identification information, which is an ID to denote the horizontal driving sections to be transferred the various control data, control identification information to denote a type of the control data, and an information field including the control data to the horizontal driving sections.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ikeda fails to disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious such features. Moreover, regarding the above-noted amendments to claims 13, 15, 30 and 32, Applicants note that the Examiner explicitly indicated in item 6 on page 6 of the Office Action that the above-noted features are not disclosed, suggested or rendered obvious by the cited prior art.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 13, 15, 30 and 32 are allowable over the cited prior art, an indication of which is respectfully requested. Applicants note that claims 14, 19 and 20 depend from claim 13, and that claims 16-18 depend from claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 14 and 16-20 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshifumi NAGAI et al.

By: Kenneth W. Fields
Kenneth W. Fields
Registration No. 52,430
Attorney for Applicants

KWF/abm
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
April 11, 2005